

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 1)

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, RP
SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS HEADS NEW CABINET DEPARTMENT

REF: MANILA 08527

1. SUMMARY. BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE A NEW CABINET POSITION, HUMAN ECOLOGY AND SETTLEMENTS, HAS BEEN CREATED AND AWARDED TO IMELDA MARCOS. IT APPEARS THAT MRS. MARCOS MAY ALSO RETAIN HER POSITION OF METRO MANILA GOVERNOR. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS SIGNED A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE JUNE 1 CREATING A NEW CABINET-LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ECOLOGY AND SETTLEMENTS AND IMMEDIATELY APPOINTED AND SWORE- IN IMELDA MARCOS AS ITS FIRST SECRETARY. THE PRESIDENT SIGNED THE DECREE DURING A CAUCUS OF MEMBERS-ELECT OF THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA. THE NEW DEPARTMENT, THE TWENTY-FIRST CABINET DEPARTMENT, WILL HANDLE THE COORDINATION, PLANNING AND MONITORING OF DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTRY'S 1,600 TOWNS AND CITIES.

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3. DURING THE DISCUSSION SEVERAL ASSEMBLYMEN-ELECT REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MRS. MARCOS WILL HAVE TO RESIGN AS GOVERNOR OF METROPOLITAN MANILA. THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT THE QUESTION OF THE GOVERNORSHIP IS BEING CONSIDERED AND FOR THE MOMENT MRS. MARCOS WILL RETAIN HER THREE POSITIONS AS

GOVERNOR, ASSEMBLYWOMAN AND CABINET SECRETARY.

4. COMMENT: THE CREATION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND HUMAN RESOURCES WITH MRS. MARCOS AS ITS HEAD WAS APPROVED WITHOUT OPPOSITION IN A SET-PIECE "DEBATE". THE QUESTIONS REGARDING HER CONTINUATION AS METRO-MANILA GOVERNOR SEEM TO BE THE BEGINNING OF A NOW FAMILIAR TECHNIQUE OF ORCHESTRATED SUPPORT FOR MRS. MARCOS AND MAY SIGNAL THE START OF A CAMPAIGN TO ALLOW HER TO RETAIN THE GOVERNORSHIP. ONE ASSEMBLYMAN-ELECT VOLUNTEERED THAT BECAUSE METRO-MANILA WILL FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF MRS. MARCOS' NEW DEPARTMENT, SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETAIN HER JOB DESPITE RULES FORBIDDING IBP MEMBERS FROM HOLDING OTHER GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

5. EXACTLY WHAT FUNCTIONS THE NEW DEPARTMENT WILL PERFORM ARE NOT CLEAR. IT APPEARS HOWEVER THAT IT MAY FIND ITSELF COMPETING (AND PROBABLY SUCCESSFULLY) WITH ALREADY ESTABLISHED AGENCIES, E.G., THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOR CONTROL OVER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. TOUSSAINT

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